

Conventions

Any activity that allows students to practice...

identifying reasons for editing
understanding the difference between revision and editing
keeping editing in proportion – ideas come first
learning & using editing symbols
thinking like an editor
developing a proofreader's eye
letting students be their own editors

2. Publishing House

Let pairs or groups of students take turns having editing responsibility for published work from within the classroom. They will work with the author(s) in doing the final editing. Volunteer parents can be helpful in this process, too. Another possibility is to have older students work with younger students. How nice to let older students (even a year or two) work with younger writers as they learn to edit and polish their final copy. Be sure to let the computer be a part of this process. Publishing is so much simpler when you have the use of technology.

3. Changing One Verb

Write a sentence with one bland verb: e.g. Paul WALKED down the road. Let students play with changing this verb to alter the meaning of the sentence (staggered, stumbled, fled, raced, etc.). Now write more to develop the story and make it a game to see how many different active verbs can be used. The first person to fall in “passive verb land” is out. This works well for bringing home the power of verbs – also supports teaching word choice and fluency, too!